

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Third Essex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,869 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 0.7% (833) of these admissions reside in the Third Essex Representative District. 4% (36) of admissions from the Third Essex Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Third Essex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 72% were male and 28% were female.
- 56% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 80% were white non-Latino, 3% were black non-Latino, 14% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 63% were never married, 14% were married, and 23% reported not to be married now.
- 32% had less than high school education, 48% completed high school, and 19% had more than high school education.
- 34% were employed.
- 11% were homeless.
- 38% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Essex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	48%	28%	15%	5%	2%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2003							
Third Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	764	582	252	244	194	237	188
FY '96	746	566	214	212	148	237	185
FY '97	733	531	216	167	133	233	198
FY '98	692	490	212	141	88	236	195
FY '99	832	578	268	216	146	347	277
FY '00	877	617	263	200	139	290	216
FY '01	922	669	279	176	90	283	208
FY '02	826	588	268	148	73	293	207
FY '03	833	587	251	191	87	253	181